

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AWARDS CONTRACT FOR RESEARCH VESSEL

The Department of the Interior has announced award of a \$3,113,274 contract for constructing a fisheries and oceanographic research vessel to the American Ship Building Company, Lorain, Ohio. It will be built at the company's Chicago shipyard.

The new vessel will be assigned to the Department's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, Seattle, Wash. It will be used for coastal and offshore oceanographic research and in support of the research programs of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Donald L. McKernan, Bureau Director, said the specifications call for a stern ramp vessel 215 feet, 10 inches long with a 42-foot beam, powered by a 2,150-horsepower diesel engine. It is designed to carry a crew of 20, with additional quarters and facilities for 9 scientists. The contract calls for completion within 2 years.

The successful bid was the lowest of three submitted. Gundersen Brothers Engineering Company, Portland, Ore., bid \$3,403,847 and Avondale Shipyards, New Orleans, La., \$3,514,000.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries has two other research vessels under construction. The David Starr Jordan has been launched, and is being fitted at Sturgeon Bay, Wisc., for assignment to the Bureau's La Jolla, California Fishery-Oceanography Center. A replacement for the Bureau vessel Delaware, is under construction at South Portland, Maine, and when completed will be assigned to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Exploratory Fishing Base at Gloucester, Mass.

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